

SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

104th Congress
1st Session

Vote No. 422

September 14, 1995, 10:48 a.m.
Page S-13562 Temp. Record

WELFARE REFORM BILL/Teen Welfare Parents and Serial Dependency

SUBJECT: Family Self-Sufficiency Act of 1995 . . . H.R. 4. Faircloth amendment to the Dole modified perfecting amendment No. 2280 to the committee substitute amendment.

ACTION: AMENDMENT REJECTED, 17-83

SYNOPSIS: As reported with a committee substitute amendment, H.R. 4, the Family Self-Sufficiency Act of 1995, will overhaul six of the Nation's ten largest welfare programs.

The Dole modified perfecting amendment would strike the provisions of the committee substitute amendment and insert in lieu thereof substitute provisions, entitled "The Work Opportunity Act of 1995."

The Faircloth amendment would forbid using any part of a family assistance grant to provide assistance to a minor who had a child out of wedlock and who resided with an adult who had received assistance from this Act or from the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program within the previous two years. (Family assistance block grants would be created by the Dole amendment as a discretionary, temporary assistance program to replace the AFDC welfare program.)

Those favoring the amendment contended:

Senators earlier rejected a Faircloth amendment that would have denied cash benefits to teenage mothers unless they lived in States in which the legislatures passed laws making them eligible for such Federal benefits. We thought that amendment was reasonable, but apparently most Senators found it too restrictive. Accordingly, we have now offered a second Faircloth amendment, which has even milder restrictions. This amendment would only allow teenage mothers to collect cash benefits if they lived with an adult relative or guardian who had not received welfare within the previous two years. Under the Dole amendment, teenagers already would be ineligible for cash benefits unless they lived under such adult supervision. Vouchers could be provided, but not cash. A purpose of that adult supervision, in our minds, would be to make certain that those young teen mothers would be given guidance that would help them eventually become independent. That purpose would not be served by having them under the tutelage of

(See other side)

YEAS (17)		NAYS (83)				NOT VOTING (0)	
Republicans (17 or 31%)	Democrats (0 or 0%)	Republicans (37 or 69%)		Democrats (46 or 100%)		Republicans (0)	Democrats (0)
Ashcroft		Abraham	Gregg	Akaka	Inouye		
Brown		Bennett	Hatch	Baucus	Johnston		
Faircloth		Bond	Hatfield	Biden	Kennedy		
Gramm		Burns	Hutchison	Bingaman	Kerrey		
Grams		Campbell	Jeffords	Boxer	Kerry		
Helms		Chafee	Kassebaum	Bradley	Kohl		
Inhofe		Coats	Kempthorne	Breaux	Lautenberg		
Lott		Cochran	Kyl	Bryan	Leahy		
McCain		Cohen	Lugar	Bumpers	Levin		
McConnell		Coverdell	Mack	Byrd	Lieberman		
Nickles		Craig	Murkowski	Conrad	Mikulski		
Pressler		D'Amato	Packwood	Daschle	Moseley-Braun		
Shelby		DeWine	Roth	Dodd	Moynihan		
Smith		Dole	Santorum	Dorgan	Murray		
Stevens		Domenici	Simpson	Exon	Nunn		
Thompson		Frist	Snowe	Feingold	Pell		
Thurmond		Gorton	Specter	Feinstein	Pryor		
		Grassley	Thomas	Ford	Reid		
			Warner	Glenn	Robb		
				Graham	Rockefeller		
				Harkin	Sarbanes		
				Heflin	Simon		
				Hollings	Wellstone		

EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:

- 1—Official Business
- 2—Necessarily Absent
- 3—Illness
- 4—Other

SYMBOLS:

- AY—Announced Yea
- AN—Announced Nay
- PY—Paired Yea
- PN—Paired Nay

parents, in almost all cases mothers, who were also welfare dependents.

A large part of the current welfare problem is caused by serial, multigenerational dependency. In many cases a girl who has a child at the age of 15 will still be on welfare 15 years later, when her daughter also has a child. In such cases, both the 30-year-old grandmother and her 15-year-old daughter will be sent checks from the Federal Government. Our colleagues should at least admit that this type of dependency is destructive. Under the Faircloth amendment, that 15-year-old could still get welfare money from the Federal Government, but only if she were under the supervision of a responsible adult. An employed relative, a charitable organization, or a government-run institution could take charge, but as long as she remained in an environment that promoted dependency she would not get cash.

Senators who do not believe that the Faircloth amendment addresses a major problem should keep in mind that a girl who is raised in a single-parent home on welfare is 5 times more likely to have a child out-of-wedlock herself than is a girl raised in a two-parent home without welfare. Roughly two-thirds of all the unwed teenage mothers were raised in broken or single-parent homes. This lethal, mushrooming pattern of multigenerational illegitimacy must be broken. As the above statistics illustrate, having the proper home environment for the young girls most at risk of perpetuating and expanding the problem would serve to lower the rate of illegitimacy. This amendment is clearly in the best interests of young teenage mothers. We urge Senators to vote for its adoption.

No arguments were expressed in opposition to the amendment.